

CAMERON.

An Interview with the English Explorer.

RUMORS OF STANLEY.

LIVERPOOL, April 13, 1876.

The busy city of Liverpool seemed the quietest of country hamlets yesterday morning. It was Sunday, and the day is absolutely one of rest in England. But the strictly drawn lines of clerical propriety did not prevent the great commercial city from flocking to the landing stage on yesterday afternoon to welcome home Lieutenant Cameron, the latest among the explorers of Central Africa. He returned after an absence of more than three years, during which he has crossed that greatest of all peninsulas. The object of his original commission is so well known that it need only be referred to. He was engaged by the Royal Geographical Society to carry relief to Dr. Livingston, and accomplished his arduous duty only to find the man dead whom he had gone to succor. He sent the body of the great missionary back to England and then started on his journey of discovery, which ended only in November last.

Of the reception of Lieutenant Cameron yesterday and the hearty welcome which was given him by the Mayor the cable has already informed you.

After these impressive ceremonies were ended he drove to the house of his cousin at No. 9 Sandon terrace, where I by previous appointment called upon him last evening.

MEETING THE EXPLORER.

I sent in my card and was cordially received by Lieutenant Cameron in person. He was in the best of humor and did not display the slightest aversion to an interview. After congratulating him upon his safe return, which he warmly acknowledged, I asked for some details regarding his march from Tanganyika to the West Coast.

"My first duty, I do not need to tell you," the Lieutenant began, "is to the Royal Geographical Society, which equipped and sent me out; but I shall be glad to give you any information regarding my journey which shall not anticipate the report I am to make to that body. I am only sorry that I was not able to obtain some authentic

NEWS FROM MR. STANLEY.

for if I had I should not feel justified in withholding it from the New York Herald."

"You left Zanzibar on May 29, 1873, and Ujiji on Tanganyika about a year later, as we are informed. How did you proceed from that point?" I asked.

"As you are doubtless aware the original object of the expedition was to relieve Dr. Livingston; but when we met the corpse of the good old gentleman there was nothing left in that direction for us to do. His remains were forwarded to England, and I then determined to follow up the river Luaba to its mouth and forever settle the question regarding its

IDENTITY WITH THE CONGO.

With this design I went to Nyangwe, on the Lower Luaba, or, as it is known at that particular point, the Ugwara. This village is on the Manuema side of the river, and is well known in African exploration."

"I want to ask a question about the Tanganyika before we finally leave it. Did you not make an exploration of its west coast?"

"I traversed the country below the southern end of the lake, and again, after my return to Ujiji, in the spring of 1874, crossed to Ruanda."

"That is the point to which I had special reference. Did you, as has been reported, find an outlet to the great lake of Burton and Speke?"

"There is a stream flowing out of Tanganyika toward the Atlantic coast, in a wide, steady and rapid current. This important river is called by the natives the Luaba, or Lukuga. I secured a boat at Ruanda and pushed down this stream, hoping, as I confidently believe to this hour, that the current would lead me into the Luaba and finally into the Congo. But at the end of a few miles we encountered an insurmountable barrier of rushes and grass, under which the river disappeared for a long distance. We observed great pieces of timber carried down by the stream and sucked under the floating logs. The current was running at that point fully ten knots, or about eleven miles per hour. Regrettably I was compelled to return to the great lake, but the head man of the tribe encountered at the beginning of the stream assured me that the stream could be followed by a few difficult portages to the Luaba."

DIFFICULTIES OF EXPLORATION.

"Returning to Nyangwe, then, you made your final start?"

"Yes. There I encountered the great disappointment of my trip. I found it impossible to obtain boats for money or by begging. No materials were obtainable elsewhere to build them. The natives would rather part with their wives and children than their boats, and whereas I might have bought half a dozen families for a few pounds I could not get a boat for 100 guineas. Thence I went with a caravan of Portuguese traders to Kilamba. This route lay toward the south two degrees, or from four to six south latitude. It is situated in the middle of Nyangwe. I was able to settle for a few days at Nyangwe, but the natives were so hostile that I was obliged to leave it."

LAKE LUABA AS A FRESHWATER RIVER.

The river at that point was only 1,400 feet above the sea level. This ended the mystery of the Luaba as far as its northern outlet. I knew then that its mouth, or that of the stream into which it debouched, was to be found somewhere along the Atlantic coast. I would have given the wealth of Monte Cristo, had I possessed it, for the means of solving that simple problem. If Mr. Stanley can only force his way from the Albert Nyangwa across to Nyangwe, and can

LAUNCH THE LADY ALBA.

upon the Luaba at that point he can land her in the ocean within three months. Of that I am as sure as that I live. He can fully verify the one great dream of my life, which was so nearly within my grasp that I feel keenly the impossibility to me of verifying it."

BETWEEN KILAMBA AND THE COAST.

"The country between Kilamba and the coast was mostly unexplored."

"The route which I followed was mostly new, although I crossed the line of Livingston's, and near the Atlantic coast, of Magy's trip in 1850."

"How long did you remain at Kilamba?"

"I made my home with an Arab and did not get away on my final tramp until June, 1875. I then determined to follow the line of the waterbed, between the Zambezi and the Congo. This plan I carried out until the day in last November when I set foot in Benguela."

"Please give the route in stages as you made it."

"From Kilamba I struck to the westward, over a caravan trail, till I reached a large stream, said to be the Loman, along whose eastern bank I had before travelled on my way from Nyangwe."

AMONG THE NATIVES.

The towns were very close together, recurring every five or ten miles, and were, in some instances, quite large. The natives appeared to be gregarious in their instincts and to desire much rather to herd together in villages than to range the neighboring country. They were in decided contrast to the tribes encountered on the eastern coast of Tanganyika. An easy stage of forty miles brought me to Kasoro; thence I turned to the southward, and, after a walk of about fifty miles, came to Luanda, on the Kibishi branch of the Lovoi river, which, you may remember, flows into lake Kikoma, thus forming the nucleus of another system of streams which, finally, unite about two degrees further north in the Luaba."

"Excuse me, Lieutenant," said I, thoroughly dependent; "but had the natives in that region organized any 'spelling bees'?"

The general traveler laughed and took the gentle hint. He kindly spelled out the names from that point onward.

ACROSS THE BLACK CONTINENT.

"I must pass rapidly from this point for two reasons. First, because the distance is great, and, second, because I must not tell you too much." I resumed, the unburned hero merrily. "From Luanda in easy stage brought us to Luanda Mandi's trading village, where I rested, thence forward toward the southwest, crossing innumerable streams, to Kikongo, a journey of about ninety miles. Forward again, now crossing streams alternately flowing to the eastward and the westward. Great hills were seen occasionally to the southeast, but following the long waterbed—or what I believe to be it—we continued still southwest through Kikwa, Kikombe, Domoa to Kikongo. It is almost safe to say that the people of

three-fourths of the towns of that region begin with either L or K. The distance in this stage is about 235 miles. Streams of considerable size exist every few miles."

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY.

"Can't you tell me something about the country?" "I can simply say that it was a very interesting region. A journey of about ninety-five miles, almost due west, brought us to Katumbanda, thence 180 miles brought us to the village of Poho, in Kikoma. From that point 240 miles of a journey, by way of Bidi, brought us to Benguela in November last. I could have reached home by Christmas, only that I feared to encounter the English winter after three years in southern climate."

"Can you not tell me something of the great opportunities for commerce in the Congo-Luaba and Tanganyika region, if they are opened up by European or American capital?" I asked.

"I can only say that there are vast stores of commercial wealth within the reach of the enterprise of modern days."

STANLEY.

"Did you hear anything of Stanley?"

"Yes, I heard of him several times. Of course he was away to the northward of my most northerly point. Poor fellow, he has a desperate case of people to deal with, and any one less determined than he would have been weary of extensive traveling long ago. Several traders whom I saw in Nyangwe spoke of him. They had heard of him at Mica's. He was described as a short, heavy set white man, in white clothes—in fact, I am absolutely certain from many other facts stated by them that they were speaking of Stanley."

RUMORS OF STANLEY.

"The headmen and Portuguese traders of the Luaba region are deeply interested in Stanley's trip, and frequent inquiries were made for him in Nyangwe. If he is fortunate enough to get through to that point from the Albert Lake region he will find very good friends, who will furnish him provisions and all necessary outfit. Dugbume, the head man of the settlers at Nyangwe would do anything for him in his power. With his aid Stanley can get boats and practically solve forever the great Congo-Luaba question. I do hope nothing will happen to the intrepid fellow. I heard many rumors about the

REPUTATION OF HIS NAME.

and the desperate straits to which he had been reduced; but such reports are always in circulation, and there was no means of either verifying or disproving them. I can say only this, that if his men have lost heart and begun to desert the case is very serious. It will not do any good to knock a few of them on the head. The rest will simply sit down and shake their heads, but go further they will not. I can tell you, from the bitterest of experience, that it is a dreadful position to find one's self in—alone in the wilderness—among human wild beasts, hundreds of miles between you and succor, and starvation staring you in the face. But I have only looked at the very worst side of the picture. I have hope that Stanley will come out all right, and I am sure that in the bottom of my heart I hope so."

"What did you do with the men whom you brought through with you from Zanzibar to the West Coast, Lieutenant?" I asked.

"I sent them around the Cape in a schooner, and they are probably at home by this time."

Again shaking the Lieutenant by the hand, I bade him farewell.

THE EXPLORER'S HISTORY.

Lieutenant Cameron is a native of Weymouth, in Dorsetshire, and was born in the year 1844. His father is the Rev. J. S. Cameron, rector of Shoreham, in Kent, and Colonel Cameron, of the Forty-second regiment, was his grandfather. At an early age he entered the navy as a cadet, and afterward served as a midshipman under the Duke of Edinburgh. In this capacity he won the admiration of his superior officers by a special service, and it was proposed to promote him to a higher rank. This, however, was opposed on the ground of the service rendered by him in the navy, and he was not actually promoted.

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CONKLING.

SENATOR CONKLING AS THE NEW YORK CANDIDATE.

DATE.

(From the New York Sun, April 15.)

There is one argument in favor of Mr. Conkling's nomination which his supporters have not urged with adequate zeal. It is just sixty years since the party opposed to the democracy selected its Presidential candidate from the State of New York. In 1816 the federalists ran Rufus King, of this State, as a sort of forlorn hope against James Monroe, but without the slightest expectation of electing him. In the long period which has since intervened, and during which the federalists passed away and the whigs party rose and fell, after an illustrious career, disappeared, and the republicans came into power and have ruled the country for sixteen years, the Presidential candidate of the anti-democratic party has never been a citizen of New York. And yet all through this eventful epoch in the history of the nation New York has been in every particular the foremost State in the Union, and at nearly every Presidential election her vote has decided the contest.

In view of these striking facts may not the friends of Senator Conkling insist that his nomination would be a just and proper recognition of the services of the State of New York to the country? The opposition to the democracy for two generations past has selected its candidates for President from Massachusetts, Kentucky, Ohio, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and New Jersey, and even twice from Massachusetts, twice from Kentucky, and four times from Illinois, but not once from the State which in wealth, population, and political influence has been the equal of all of them combined. And the nomination of this party for Vice President has only been accorded New York twice in the last sixty years.

A very vigorous effort was made to repair this wrong to New York in 1860. Governor Seward was pressed upon the Chicago Convention as the favorite of the State in which he resided, and he was elected. But he had taken no conspicuous part. But the appeal was in vain. The Convention at Cincinnati will afford an opportunity for the recognition of the State of New York in the service under a false name, or to make any change in his name without the sanction of the House of Representatives. It is hardly necessary to say that to make the friends of Senator Conkling will not fail to take possession of the argument we propose, or to make the most of it at the approaching convention.

CONKLING'S CHANCE.

(From the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.)

A month or so ago the name of Senator Conkling was hardly ever mentioned in connection with the republican nomination for the Presidency; to-day he looms up as perhaps the strongest candidate on the republican side. Conkling will have the New York delegation very nearly solid, and it is understood that he will also receive the vote of Pennsylvania after the first ballot, together with New Jersey and Rhode Island. His friends calculate also upon the vote of the Southern States, most of which are now claimed for him, but are almost certain to remain for so many years in the hands of the republicans. The nomination of Senator Conkling is a bold and daring move, and it is not without a certain amount of risk. But the appeal was in vain. The Convention at Cincinnati will afford an opportunity for the recognition of the State of New York in the service under a false name, or to make any change in his name without the sanction of the House of Representatives. It is hardly necessary to say that to make the friends of Senator Conkling will not fail to take possession of the argument we propose, or to make the most of it at the approaching convention.

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A month or so ago the name of Senator Conkling was hardly ever mentioned in connection with the republican nomination for the Presidency; to-day he looms up as perhaps the strongest candidate on the republican side. Conkling will have the New York delegation very nearly solid, and it is understood that he will also receive the vote of Pennsylvania after the first ballot, together with New Jersey and Rhode Island. His friends calculate also upon the vote of the Southern States, most of which are now claimed for him, but are almost certain to remain for so many years in the hands of the republicans. The nomination of Senator Conkling is a bold and daring move, and it is not without a certain amount of risk. But the appeal was in vain. The Convention at Cincinnati will afford an opportunity for the recognition of the State of New York in the service under a false name, or to make any change in his name without the sanction of the House of Representatives. It is hardly necessary to say that to make the friends of Senator Conkling will not fail to take possession of the argument we propose, or to make the most of it at the approaching convention.

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